



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Gregory O. Ness

Examiner: Smith, Philip Robert

Serial No.: 10/777,249

Group Art Unit: 3739

Filing Date: 02/12/2004

Docket No.: P10959.00:

Title: INFLATABLE ACCESS INSTRUMENTS AND METHODS FOR ACCESSING

AN ANATOMIC SPACE

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certificate of Mailing UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this /3/day of September, 2006.

Simatura

Jo L. Brecht

Printed Name

RESPONSE AND AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This response and amendment are filed in response to the Office Action dated May 18, 2006.